



BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
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FACT SHEET
LICENSE RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

EXPIRATION DATE

An optometrist license expires at midnight on the last day of the licensee's birth month following the original issuance of the license and thereafter at midnight on the last day of the licensee's birth month every two years.

RENEWAL FEE(S)

The renewal fee for an optometrist license is \$300.00 which is to be sent along with the renewal notice. Renewed licenses are valid for a period of two years. A \$25.00 delinquent fee shall be assessed if the renewal fee is not postmarked by midnight on the expiration date.

CONTINUING OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION (CE)

All licensed optometrists are required to meet continuing education (CE) requirements as a condition of renewing their license. Optometrists self certify that they have met CE requirements by so indicating on the renewal notice which is submitted with the renewal fee. Course work shall be Board approved and no more than 8 hours of the required course work shall be in the area of patient care management. Optometrists who are therapeutic pharmaceutical agent (TPA) certified, are required to complete 50 hours of CE. Thirty-five of the 50 CE hours must be in the diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular diseases in any combination in the following topics:

- glaucoma, ocular infection
- ocular inflammation
- topical steroids
- systemic medication
- pain medication.

Non TPA certified optometrists shall complete 40 hours of continuing optometric education course work within the two years immediately preceding the renewal deadline.

PLEASE NOTE: If a licensee does not indicate on their renewal form that they have completed the required number of hours for continuing education (CE), the renewal of their license will be placed on hold until such proof is submitted to the Board.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EXEMPTION: A newly licensed optometrist is exempt from the CE requirement for their first renewal period if he or she graduated from their school of optometry less than one year from the date their license was issued.

INACTIVE LICENSE

Holders of an inactive license need not comply with continuing education requirements as a condition for renewal. However, the renewal date and renewal fees still apply. The holder of an inactive license may not engage in the practice of optometry.

SELF STUDY/CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

The California State Board of Optometry will accept a maximum of 20 hours of CE earned through the completion of acceptable documented and accredited self-study courses. Credit for self study courses (i.e., review of written, audio, video material, or a combination) is given at the ratio of one hour of credit for one hour of self study earned.

APPROVED PROVIDERS

CE courses which are approved as meeting the required standards of the board include those sponsored or recognized by any accredited US school or college of optometry, any national or state affiliate of the American Optometric Association, the American Academy of Optometry, or the Optometric Extension Program. Also acceptable are courses approved by the International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry known as COPE (Council on Optometric Practitioner Education).

CHILD AND ELDER ABUSE DETECTION

The California State Board of Optometry permits optometrists to earn up to eight hours of Continuing Education (CE) credit in patient care management for courses taken in elder and/or child abuse detection.

These courses aren't just good for CE credits—they are part of an optometrist's legal obligation. The Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) designates optometrists—and many other licensed professionals—as mandated reporters who must immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect to certain local government agencies.

CANRA requires that any optometrist who has knowledge of or who, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, knows of or observes a child whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect shall report such suspected incident to a designated agency. The report must be made immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and followed up with a written report within 36 hours of receiving the information.

Additional information about CANRA is available on the Board of Optometry's Web site at www.optometry.ca.gov/canra.htm.

Note to CE providers: There is no change in the process for obtaining approval of CE courses in adult and child abuse detection.